

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3583

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## AN ACT

To expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Malala Yousafzai  
3 Scholarship Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
6 ings:

7           (1) On October 9, 2012, Malala Yousafzai was  
8       shot in the head by Pakistani Taliban on her way  
9       home from school.

10          (2) In late 2008, Malala began writing a blog  
11       for BBC Urdu under a pseudonym pressing the case  
12       for access to education for women and girls despite  
13       objections from the Pakistani Taliban.

14          (3) Malala’s advocacy for the education of  
15       women and girls made her a target of the Taliban.

16          (4) The Taliban called Malala’s efforts to high-  
17       light the need for education for women and girls an  
18       “obscenity”.

19          (5) On July 12, 2013, Malala celebrated her  
20       16th birthday by delivering a speech before the  
21       United Nations General Assembly in which she said,  
22       “So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy,  
23       poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books  
24       and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons.  
25       One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can  
26       change the world. Education is the only solution.”.

1           (6) According to the United Nation’s 2012  
2           Education for All Global Monitoring Report, “Paki-  
3           stan has the second largest number of children out  
4           of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural  
5           females have never been to school.”.

6           (7) According to the World Bank, “The benefits  
7           of women’s education go beyond higher productivity  
8           for 50 percent of the population. More educated  
9           women also tend to be healthier, participate more in  
10          the formal labor market, earn more income, have  
11          fewer children, and provide better health care and  
12          education to their children, all of which eventually  
13          improve the well-being of all individuals and lift  
14          households out of poverty. These benefits also trans-  
15          mit across generations, as well as to their commu-  
16          nities at large.”.

17          (8) According to United Nation’s 2012 Edu-  
18          cation For All Global Monitoring Report, “education  
19          can make a big difference to women’s earnings. In  
20          Pakistan, women with a high level of literacy earned  
21          95 percent more than women with no literacy  
22          skills.”.

23          (9) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary  
24          Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the doors of  
25          education to all citizens, but especially to girls and

1       women \* \* \* We are doing all of these things be-  
2       cause we have seen that when women and girls have  
3       the tools to stay healthy and the opportunity to con-  
4       tribute to their families’ well-being, they flourish  
5       and so do the people around them.

6               (10) The United States provides critical foreign  
7       assistance to Pakistan’s education sector to improve  
8       access to and the quality of basic and higher edu-  
9       cation.

10              (11) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship  
11       Program administered by the United States Agency  
12       for International Development (USAID) awards  
13       scholarships to academically talented, financially  
14       needy Pakistani students from all regions, including  
15       remote areas of the country, to pursue bachelor’s or  
16       master’s degrees at participating Pakistani univer-  
17       sities.

18              (12) Fifty percent of the 974 Merit and Needs-  
19       Based Scholarships awarded during fiscal year 2013  
20       were awarded to Pakistani women. Historically, only  
21       25 percent of such scholarships have been awarded  
22       to women. Starting in the fall of 2013, USAID has  
23       committed to provide 50 percent of all scholarships  
24       to women.

1           (13) The United Nations declared July 12,  
2           2013, as “Malala Day”—a global day of support for  
3           and recognition of Malala’s bravery and courage in  
4           promoting women’s education.

5           (14) On October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai  
6           became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for  
7           her “struggle against the suppression of children  
8           and young people and for the right of all children to  
9           education”.

10          (15) On December 10, 2012, the United Na-  
11          tions and the Government of Pakistan launched the  
12          “Malala Fund for Girls’ Education” to improve  
13          girls’ access to education worldwide, with Pakistan  
14          donating the first \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

15          (16) More than 1,000,000 people around the  
16          world have signed the United Nations Special Envoy  
17          for Global Education petition calling on the Govern-  
18          ment of Pakistan to enroll every boy and girl in pri-  
19          mary school.

20          (17) Pakistani civil society organizations col-  
21          lected almost 2,000,000 signatures from Pakistanis  
22          on a petition dedicated to Malala’s cause of edu-  
23          cation for all.

24          (18) Engagement with Pakistani diaspora com-  
25          munities in the United States, who have unique per-

1       spectives, access, and opportunities to contribute to  
2       stability and economic growth in Pakistan, will be a  
3       critical element of a successful United States pro-  
4       gram to promote greater access to education for  
5       women and girls.

6   **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

8           (1) every individual should have the opportunity  
9       to pursue an education;

10          (2) every individual, regardless of gender,  
11       should have the opportunity to pursue an education  
12       without fear of discrimination;

13          (3) educational exchanges promote institutional  
14       linkages between the United States and Pakistan;  
15       and

16          (4) recipients of scholarships referred to in sec-  
17       tion 4 should commit to improving their local com-  
18       munities.

19       (b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIA-  
20       TIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Depart-  
21       ment of State and the United States Agency for Inter-  
22       national Development to continue their support for initia-  
23       tives led by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani  
24       civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially  
25       education for women.

1 **SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United  
4 States Agency for International Development (referred to  
5 in this Act as the “USAID Administrator”) shall award  
6 at least 50 percent of the number of scholarships under  
7 the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (re-  
8 ferred to in this Act as the “Program”) to women for each  
9 of the calendar years 2014 through 2016.

10 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

11 (1) CRITERIA.—The scholarships available  
12 under subsection (a) may only be awarded in accord-  
13 ance with other scholarship eligibility criteria already  
14 established by USAID.

15 (2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Scholarships au-  
16 thorized under subsection (a) shall be awarded for a  
17 range of disciplines to improve the employability of  
18 graduates and to meet the needs of the scholarship  
19 recipients.

20 (3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Ad-  
21 ministrator shall make every effort to award 50 per-  
22 cent of the scholarships available under the Program  
23 to Pakistani women.

24 (c) LEVERAGING INVESTMENT.—The USAID Ad-  
25 ministrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, con-  
26 sult with and leverage investments by the Pakistani pri-

1 vate sector and Pakistani diaspora communities in the  
2 United States as part of USAID's greater effort to im-  
3 prove the quality of, expand access to, and ensure sustain-  
4 ability of education programs in Pakistan.

5 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall  
7 designate appropriate USAID officials to brief the appro-  
8 priate congressional committees, not later than 1 year  
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
10 thereafter for the next 3 years, on the implementation of  
11 section 4.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—The briefing described in subsection  
13 (a) shall include, among other relevant information, for  
14 the most recently concluded fiscal year—

15 (1) the total number of scholarships that were  
16 awarded through the Program, including a break-  
17 down by gender;

18 (2) the disciplines of study chosen by the schol-  
19 arship recipients;

20 (3) the percentage of the scholarships that were  
21 awarded to students seeking a bachelor's degree or  
22 a master's degree, respectively;

23 (4) the percentage of scholarship recipients who  
24 voluntarily dropped out of school or were involun-



1       tarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet  
2       program requirements; and  
3               (5) the percentage of scholarship recipients who  
4       dropped out of school due to retaliation for seeking  
5       an education, to the extent that such information is  
6       available.

Passed the House of Representatives November 19,  
2014.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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